



Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire

Draft Minutes of meeting, Friday 30 October 2015

Date: Friday, 3 July 2015

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Community Room, Keynsham Library, Market Walk, Keynsham, BS31 1FS

Present: JLAF Members: Chris Bloor – Chair of the JLAF (CBI), Mark O’Sullivan – Vice-Chair of the JLAF (MO), Chris Simpson (CS), John Gunnery (JG), Ken Mill (KM), Robert Killen (RK), Keith Weller (KW), Rennie Dickins (RD), Andrew Gough (AG).

Also in attendance: Nicola Chidley - South Gloucestershire Council (NC), Duncan Venison - Bristol City Council (DV), Graeme Stark - Bath & North East Somerset Council and Interim Secretary to the JLAF (GS), Cllr Michael Bell - South Gloucestershire Council (MB).

Action

A	INTRODUCTIONS	
A1	<p>Introductions CBI informed the JLAF that Cllr Sue Milestone will be BCC’s Councillor representative and Cllr Keith Burchell will be SGC’s Councillor representative on the JLAF. Neither Cllr are present but Cllr Burchell has sent his apologies and Cllr Michael Bell is attending as his substitute.</p>	
A2	<p>Apologies JLAF Members: Ann Fay, Bernadette Macey, Kate Chubb, Cllr Liz Richardson, Peter Bird, Peter Gould, Robert Davies, Chris Barrable and Cllr Keith Burchill</p>	
A3	<p>Declarations of interest None.</p>	
A4	<p>Minutes of the last meeting on 3 July 2015. The minutes were <i>agreed</i> as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the correction of the spelling of Brean under Item D2.</p>	
A5	<p>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda JG provided an update on Coastal Access. Natural England has met with local landowners. Coastal access will increase public access to fields which has until now been used to keep unfriendly cattle. Maintenance of gates is also required. Discussions are ongoing with tenant farmer regarding the alignment of the coastal access. Landowners will suffer loss of rent and value as a result of coastal access but there is no provision for compensation. There is a friendly working relationship between landowners and Natural England.</p>	
C	<p><u>ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION</u></p>	
C2	<p>Terms of Reference The Chair brought this item forward for consideration. The JLAF’s Terms of Reference were out of date due to changes in secondary legislation. There are few substantive changes but the draft Terms of Reference now include</p>	

	<p>all aspects of public access, types of land, changes to the Prescribed Bodies to include Sport England, Natural England and parish councils. GS, NC and DV confirmed that the three Authorities do not have any objection to the new Terms of Reference. Adoption was proposed by KW, seconded by KM and passed unanimously.</p>	
B1	<p>Urban Routes</p> <p>The item was originally raised by MO to determine whether it is necessary to adopt a common approach to urban routes. Urban routes include PROWs but also routes across the Downs and Blaise Estate where routes aren't marked. There are lots of promoted routes through Bristol but not all on rights of way. CS felt that finding your way was part of the fun of enjoying the outdoors and maps rather than signs achieved this goal best. AG stated that not everyone can read a map. Encouraging use of urban routes will reduce pressure on rural paths. MB stated that back lanes can be very helpful even if they're not formal, marked paths. DV stated that Safe Routes To Schools have been signed and improved by BCC but only if they're PROWs. Whether a map or signage is appropriate depends on the individual user. JG stated that parents and schools have a role to play in educating people. RK felt that travel plans don't get adhered to but queried what the discussion was seeking to achieve? MO was keen for new routes to be created to link up existing routes. RD suggested that routes on the List of Streets should be able to automatically recorded on the DM&S. DV pointed out that the List of Streets is already publically available and is part of the National Street Gazetteer. DV stated that finite resources have to be concentrated on existing PROWs. It was explained that cycle routes in South Glos. are signed by red squares by the Town Councils. CB felt that lots of different groups are putting up signage. MO wants to encourage more 'functional walking'. CBI concluded that the JLAF didn't have any advice for the local authorities.</p>	
B2	<p>Rights of way and the Farming Community</p> <p>CS raised concerns about people being attacked by cattle on PROWs, especially when they've got dogs. 60-80 people per day due the paths on his land and about half have dogs with them. Cattle can become aggressive and dogs should be taken out the field. CS asked for the JLAF to do something to stop dogs going on PROWs. MB queried how this could be achieved? NC said that the local authorities, the HSE and NFU in the south west have been working on the problems associated with dogs in the countryside and have put forward a number of practical solutions. CBI stated that the item was on the agenda for the Regional LAF meeting in Exeter. JG felt that the Animals Act should be amended but this isn't a high propriety for the CLA.</p>	
B3	<p>News from the Public Rights of Way (PROW) teams</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council</p> <p>NC explained that they have a Liaison Group coming up and will be looking at the Big Path Watch. Bids are in for capital budgets. Currently dealing with a DMMO in Patchway and deregistration of a common at Lyde Green. The Cotswold Way is to be included on Google Streetview. The South Glos. Cycling Strategy and Policy, Sites and Places Strategy will shortly be consulted on.</p> <p>Bristol City Council</p> <p>DV currently has two part time staff and is looking to create a full-time post to train up. The PROW budget has been reduced in year to part fund repairs to Princes Street Bridge. The Big Path Watch will be discussed at the Liaison Group in December but some issues are already known from</p>	

	<p>previous surveys.</p> <p>Bath and North East Somerset Council GS informed the JLAF that they have filled the vacant Technical Assistant post and that the new post holder will be taking over as the Secretary to the JLAF in due course. B&NES are looking to make £32m in savings over the next four years which could result in significant changes over the next few years, particularly for the PROW Team. MO felt that savings should be found from efficiencies rather than service cuts but DV explained that all available efficiency savings have already been made in BCC. MB stated that if PROW budgets aren't cut then something else will be. It was pointed out cuts won't be made evenly across all departments and that cuts will be based on priorities. MO agreed to write to the Authorities to remind them of their statutory duties.</p>	MO
B4	<p>Gating order The JLAF has not been notified of any Gating Order applications.</p>	
C	ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION	
C1	<p>Rock Road Layby Closure GS explained that MO's draft response has already been sent to SGC and that it will stand if ratified or be withdrawn if not ratified. Ratification was proposed by KW, seconded by CBI and passed unanimously.</p>	
D	ITEMS TO REPORT/ FOR INFORMATION	
D1	<p>West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) – update CBI explained that there has been little progress and that there is a conflict between nature conservation and public access.</p>	
D2	<p>Restoring The Record and Law of Footpaths etc. CB attended training courses on Discovering Lost Ways, Commons Deregistration and Railway Crossing Closures. NC stated that they have a long running railway crossing issue and GS stated that Network Rail have plans to divert the Claverton crossing over a new bridge.</p> <p>KW and KM stated that they're not aware of anything going on locally regarding discovering lost ways. CB asked whether anyone would like to get involved and check the List of Streets? CB to send info to GS for circulation to JLAF members</p>	CBI and GS
D3	<p>Bristol Arena RD suggested that extending the underpass at Temple Meads would improve access to the site. DV said that there have been lots of proposals for the public realm and that he understood that this is one of the proposals.</p>	
E	<p>Any Other Business None.</p>	
F	The next meeting of the JLAF will be at 2pm on 11 March 2016.	
	Close	